

REMARKS On a SCURRILOUS LIBEL, INTITLED, *A PERSUASIVE to Impartiality and Candor, in judging of the present ADMINISTRATION, particularly with Regard to our late Difficulties and Transactions Abroad.*

WHEREIN

The Partiality and Insincerity of that Author are manifested; his Defence of the Present Administration freely examined and fairly refuted; and the whole proved a scurrilous Invective and an Imposition upon the People.

To which are added,

Some Thoughts relating to the Squadron of Men of War now fitting out for the Mediterranean Service.

Address'd to the MERCHANTS.

L O N D O N:

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REMARKS

On a late SCURRILOUS

LIBEL,

INTITLED,

A PERSUASIVE to Impartiality and Candor in judging of the present Administration.

S the Pamphlet, or rather Libel, is addressed to the People, any one may give his Opinion, and raise such Objections against it, as shall occur to him: I shall therefore make no further Apology, but de-

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clare my Sentiments to my Fellow-Subjects in relation to this *doughty* Performance.

I must needs own, that the Author of the Libel manifests a great Calmness of Temper in his Way of Writing, and should heartily rejoice, (as I believe the People would do) if he or the Ministry could prove what he so positively asserts in the first Page, to be literally true ; but I am apt to think he will find it a difficult Matter to persuade us that a General Pacification is procured, which some at the Helm strive to infuse into us. For it does not appear that the *States-General* have yet acceded to the Treaty of *Vienna*, or that the King of *Spain* has yet ratified it, notwithstanding that the *Emperor* consents to the Introduction of *Don Carlos* into *Italy*, upon the Conditions proposed by the Queen of *Spain* ; and by mentioning

ning the *Queen* only, one would think that he was sole Regent of the *Spanish* Monarchy, and that King *Philip* was little more than a *Cypher*, which I am persuaded he will not take as a Compliment to him, whatever his Royal Consort may do in that Particular. We are ready to allow that the Abolition of the *Ostend Company* is promised, and that no other shall be settled in the *Austrian Netherlands*; but is there any Guaranty given? Has the *Ministry* taken care that a Company of the like Nature shall not be settled at *Trieste*? If not, then I fear that we are not upon such sure Footing as we could wish; nor can it in Propriety of Speech be called a *General Pacification*, since the *Spanish Guard de Costa's* continue to seize our Ships in their Voyages to the *West Indies*, or in their return, even though they do not

not lurk about the *Spanish Coasts*, or approach nearer to them than the Nature of the Course they are obliged to steer, does compel them. From hence then it will follow, that the Negotiations of own *Ministers* have not been crowned with the desired Success, but that they are defective and lame in those Points, and argues an Over-sight, at least, if we give it not a worse Name ; and is it reasonable that the People must suffer for the Ignorance or wilful Mistakes of their Superiors ?

We are told that *France* has no Demands to make ; then sure the *Ministry* has been so cautious as to procure such an Acknowledgment to be well attested and confirmed under Hand and Seal, otherwise this Declaration will appear to be no more than a deluding Bait : For if *France* should ever happen to break with us, she may claim the same Thing

Thing which the late *French* King did, I mean a Disbursement of those vast Sums it cost that Kingdom in supporting the Interest of the late King *James*, and endeavouring to settle him ; and since his Decease, the *Pretender*, upon the Throne of *England* ; and likewise the Expences of maintaining them, the late Queen *Mary* and her Daughter, for many Years, which must have been an incredible Charge, and the Demand upon us an immense Sum of Money. In this Case the Advice of our Author will not avail us any Thing, for if this new Friend shews Signs of Infincerity and ancient Enmity, our being reconciled to our antient Friend will be of small Moment to us.

As to the Affair of *East-Friesland*, I grant that the *Emperor* has promis'd to make it easy, but I must observe, it is not yet done, and no one can tell whether it will be to the entire

entire Satisfaction of those who are concern'd in it, when the *Emperor* makes known his final Resolution.

The Policy of the Author of this Libel, as mention'd in pag. 5, may be very proper for some *petty* Princes and States who can oppose the Oppression of a superior Power; but sure it will never suit with the Strength, Courage and Intrepidity of *Great-Britain* to suffer many small Inconveniences, lest they should run the Risk of many great ones; and therefore I cannot think it is either prudent or praise-worthy to exercise Patience in such an Affair, whatever Opinion this Author may entertain of the contrary: For whatever the *Ministry* may think, such Supineness would not only encourage, but excite those who should offer us any small Injury, to commit greater, and look upon our tame Patience to be the Effect of Inability to resent, or want of Spirit to demand Satisfaction

faction for the Wrong done to us, and so proceed from a less to a greater : But the World knows that neither of these can be laid at our Doors ; and therefore the Design of this Author, if I judge right, in endeavouring to possess us with such false *Politicks*, is to prepare our Minds to bear patiently the Capture of our Ships, supposing that a sufficient Recompence cannot be procur'd for the Losses and Damages which we have sustained : and if these are the Sentiments of the *Ministry*, they are certainly very detrimental to the Publick.

I agree, that when the Sword is once drawn, and that what was at first only a Contest between two comes at last to involve twenty ; and it touches me to the quick, when I call to mind how often *England* has been hooked in to become a *Principal* in a War, when she ought only to have acted the Part

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of an Ally, and have furnished her stipulated Quota's. But as we have burned our Fingers so often, I hope we shall not manifest to the World that we have less Sense than Children, for the future ; we have spent our Blood and Treasure by engaging in other People's Quarrels, and making them our own, whereby we have entailed an insupportable Load of Taxes upon ourselves and our Posterity, who perhaps may curse, but I am sure will not thank us, for what we have done ; and this all we have got by pushing so forward, and becoming so many *Busy-bodies*.

I hope the Author will excuse me, if I do not chime in with him in his Opinion that the Message mentioned in pag. 6. which was delivered by the Secretary of State in the *House of Commons*, was false Reasoning ; for I may venture to affirm, that the People are convinced

ced that it has cost the Nation more Money, in order to gain a sure Peace, than the Expences of a War would have amounted to, had one been proclaimed and carried on against *Spain* in a former Reign. Nor can I assent that a War would have hurt our Trade *infinitely* more, and raised our Expences *infinitely* higher. For we have fitted out large Fleets, one of which we sent abroad to the *West Indies*, where it remained in an inactive Station, and to no purpose than the loss of some Admirals and Sailors, and the Destruction of several of our best *English* Ships. The other indeed had a much better Fate; they made a fine *Ra-ree-Shore* at *Spithead*; they eat the Bread of *Idleness*, and were paid for doing it; they caroused all Day, and slept without any Apprehension of Danger all Night. We may add to this Account the

Maintenance of 12,000 useless Mercenaries, (so they proved to us) for some Years; so that upon a Balance, I am persuaded it will appear that we have paid as dear for our Tranquility, as if we had come to an open Rupture. Nor can I see how the Loss of our Trade would have been near so great as this Author magnifies it; for the Interruption of a free and open Trafick was carried on longer than in all probability the War would have continued; nor can I say that we are entirely secure therein at this Day. Befides, our Merchants might then have claimed Letters of Reprisal, which could not with any Colour of Reason have been denied, and thereby have made themselves a Recompence for their Losses. I am sure the People in general would have been better contented if such Measures had been taken, and such Methods pursued, rather than to have

have left them and the Method the *Ministry* has pursued, to other *Management* and *References*, which is this Author's favourite Policy ; and the Money which has been disbursed for Negotiations and their *Concomitants*, is another additional Article of Expences. What Politicks are now in fashion with the *Ministry*, I know not ; but it has been formerly accounted very good Policy, and Experience has evinced the Truth of it, that the best and surest Way to obtain an honourable, advantageous and lasting Peace, was to procure it with Sword in Hand. *Lewis* the XIVth was sensible of this, and used to say, that if he could draw his Enemies into a Treaty of Peace, he was sure to get an Advantage of them in a Congress, though he could not in the Field.

Can any Man be so stupid, or *owl-sighted*, as not to perceive the
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fly Insinuation of this Libel-Writer, though varnished over with wonderful Art? But to set this Point in a clear Light, and thereby to render it the more obvious to Persons of the most ordinary Capacity, I shall first recite his own Words. He says in pag. 7. *Let me add, that as 'tis often their own Guilt which pushes Ministers into Wars, and by diverting elsewhere the Publick Attention, they may proceed in their Iniquities, and escape Examination, or at least postpone it; so the Care of Ministers to avoid a War, is no small Presumption of their Innocence.* Now though he produces Instances of the former Part of his Position, in quoting the Examples of *Alcibiades*, *Pericles*, and *Cardinal Richieu*, yet he does not offer one Example, either antient or modern, to justify the last Part. But if the Inference which he would draw from

from the Premisses, laid down by him, have any Weight, (and if they have not, then he has laboured to no purpose) I would willingly be informed, why he and some of the *Ministry* have censured and condemned the Pacifick Measures, which the *Ministers* in the latter Part of Queen *ANNE*'s Reign, took to obtain and bring to a Perfection the Treaty of *Utrecht*? The Town of *Dunkirk* was delivered to us, and we put Forces therein to take care that the Harbour should be entirely demolished; and why this material Point was not effected before we withdrew our Forces from thence, let the *Ministry* of that time answer for it; and why the Demolition of that important Harbour has not been effectually performed according to the Import and Tenor of that Treaty, since the Death of Queen *ANNE* must

must be laid to the Doors of those *Ministers*, who had the Direction of Publick Affairs since that Period. But the *strongest Presumption* is no *Proof* of Innocence, which is a Thing very much desired.

In the same Page he blames *Alcibiades* for prompting *Pericles* to set a War on foot, that he might thereby screen his Ambition, and avoid passing his Accounts with the Publick. Methinks, this is a very ill-timed Reason; for we all know the Ambition of a certain *Great Minister* in our own Days, (*Great* in his own Eyes, and in those that adhere to him through private Interest) who would rejoice if he were able to pass his Accounts with the Publick, or even to compound for his Deficiency, provided he could be indemnified, and secured from the Rage of an injured People, by making such a Composition. But who has any Reason

Reason to fear the Consequences of such Rage, that has the publick Purse at his Command, and can bully the People with telling them in effect that he is *unaccountable*, which, in the acceptation of the Word in one sense, is indisputably true, and yet some *Ministers* as Great as he, who usurped an arbitrary Sway, have been *De-Witted*.

In the next Page he lays down a *notable Maxim*, viz. That *War* is only justifiable when *Treaties will not do*. Such an erroneous Piece of Policy, so contradictory to Reason and Honour, must proceed from a certain *Great Man*, who has committed more *Blunders* in Politicks than all his Predecessors; but he will be dabbling *invita Minerva*, and patch up one Blunder by committing another, which is natural to him and all the Family. If he can support his Assertion,

tion, what an Odium does he cast upon the late King *William* and Queen *Anne*! nay, even upon all their Predecessors, that have been engaged in Wars ! But the real Design of laying down that Maxim was to cast a Mist before our Eyes that we might acquiesce in our publick Patience, which, *he says*, has great Merit and Wisdom in it ; and yet he will not find one Man in an hundred, who will concur with him in that Opinion.

Are Negotiations tedious, *says he*? so are Wars. What Inference would this *Wise-acre* draw from thence, except it be to justify the tediousness of Negotiations ? In which some Men find their Account, tho' we generally pay as dear for them, as a War of the like continuance would have cost. When Sir *Richard Temple* was sent to treat with the *Hollanders* in the Reign of

of King *Charles II.* that excellent *Minister* finished his Negotiations in the space of three Days, and succeeded in every Point of his Commission; he returned before the *Ministry* thought he could have had an Audience, but was received with such Coldness, especially by the *Lord Treasurer*, (who for his own private Interest, designed to have had the Negotiations carried on for some Months) that Sir *Richard* waited three Weeks before he could be admitted into the King's Presence. However, that *just* and *faithful Minister* had this Consolation, that he did not put the Publick to more Expences than what were *barely* necessary. An admirable Example of *Patriotism*, worthy of Imitation!

I am very glad to hear this *Libeller* acknowledge that we had cause to be weary of our unfettered Condition, which, I wish I could

say was *settled*; and if the Zeal of our angry Prompters, as he is pleased to call them, was as powerfully bent against the Directors of the Publick, as against the People who insulted the Publick, no doubt but they had Reason on their Side. But I cannot hold with him in one particular Point, viz. that they were at least as solicitous to distress the Administration, as to redress us, and would not have been more concerned for our Sufferings, than pleased with hurting our Superiors. A Man may see with half an Eye against whom this Volley is discharged; but if we may judge the Sincerity of Persons by their Words and Actions, and I think we can form our Judgment by no other Criterion, then surely such a Charge is a great Breach of Charity, and has not the least Tendency to vindicate the Administration. The Persons against whom all this Artillery

tillery is levelled did censure the Conduct of the *Ministry*, and exposed the wrong Methods which they pursued at that time; they laid before them others, which they looked upon to be the only Expedient to extricate us out of our Labyrinth of Trouble, and obtain the desired End, viz. a *safe* and *honourable* Peace. Are they not therefore sufficiently justified therein, since the *Ministry* came at last into those very *Measures* which they had proposed, and which they found was the only Remedy that could be apply'd to cure our distempered *State*? Would it not have been more conducive to the brightness of their *Characters* and *Reputation*, if this *Specifick Balsam* had been applied at first? I am certain, it would have saved us vast *Expences*, which were consumed in fruitless Negotiations, and have encouraged our *Merchants* to traffic

fick with more Alacrity. If a *Patient* is more obliged to a *Physician* by whose *Prescription* he recovers his Health, than to the *Apothecary* who administers it ; by the same *Parity of Reason* we ought to be as thankful at least to such *Persons* who pointed out the Way to free us from our wretched *Condition*, as to the *Ministers* who put it in practice.

I therefore own, that we have reason to *rejoyce* that we have had the good *Fortune* to *escape*, and that we ought to be *thankful* to our *Benefactors* for preventing the *Evil*; I know that the *Libel-Writer* means the *Ministry*; and I would have him know that the *Peoples Thanks* ought principally and primarily to be given to those Gentlemen, who directed them to steer their Course right.

In pag. 11. we have another odd Piece of *Policy* palmed upon us ;
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but I cannot see any Reason why Ministers should be forced at any Time to *hide*, much less to *disown* the only *Measures* which are most unjustifiable, and most likely to succeed. If they can be justified, they will certainly bear the *Light*, and stand the severest *Test*; and if they are likely to be crown'd with *Success*, the probability of such good News would surely exhilarate the Minds of the People, and therefore they ought not to be concealed from them; but to play at *Bo-peep* with us, does surely give Umbrance of *Suspicion*. I desire those Gentlemen to tell me sincerely, if they would not be of this Opinion, if the *Tables* were turned? Though I have an Aversion to the Doctrine of *Innuendo's*, yet, I must confess, that this Method of *hiding Measures* that are justifiable, appears to me to be laid down with no other View than to persuade

persuade us they were pursuing such *Methods in private*, which were directed *in publick*; and the Consequence they would draw from thence, is, that they *deserve the Applause* of the People for such a meritorious Act. But though they may hood-wink our Eyes, they cannot blindfold our Reason; nor is our Eye-sight so much impaired but we can still distinguish the *Substance* from the *Shadow*.

I do not see how *Ministers* can be debarred from defending their *most righteous Proceedings*, as this *Libel-Writer* asserts in pag. 12. which is a scandalous *Reflection* upon the People in general, thereby *taxing* them with the most flagrant Injustice; nor can I perceive any *Reasons*, much less very *good ones*, they can have for not asserting their *Innocence*, and for suffering *Calumny*, rather than refute it. It is natural for every Man to

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covet an honest and fair *Character*, and 'tis as natural for him to assert his *Innocence* when wrongfully *accused*, and to endeavour to discharge himself from a Load of *Calumny*, rather than bend under it. *Nature* requires him to do it; and to perform it, is a Duty which he owes to his Family; and I may venture to affirm, that no *Man* will bear a *Calumny*, but such an one, who is sensible he *deserves* it, or that if he should offer to vindicate himself, he would thereby add a greater *Weight* to what he already labours under. If therefore *Ministers* cannot justify their Proceedings, it is a Piece of Prudence in them however to bear quietly the *Disgrace* which they draw upon them, and not expose themselves further to the World by making a lame Defence—We are told in the same Page, that they (*Ministers*) are

sometimes represented as the Authors of *Counsels*, which they had vigorously opposed, and of *Evils* which they had heartily laboured to prevent; this he takes in great Dudgeon. But he very well knows that such Things have been done, and that there is a *Minister*, who when he had *forfeited* his Royal Master's Favour, not only thwarted all his *Measures*, but even opposed with bitterness the very *Schemes* which he himself had laid, and the very *Counsels* of which he was the Author; nay, he called some Things an insupportable *Evil* at that time, but when he was restored he strenuously asserted the contrary, and laboured the Point so rigorously, in shewing the *Reasonableness* and *Necessity* of it, that he obtained his End. This calls to my remembrance four old Lines, which are very *a propos.*

What

What makes that Wrong which was so Right before ?

A Living, worth Three hundred Pounds, or more.

What makes that Right which was so Wrong before ?

Another Living, worth as many more.

In pag. 13. he tells us, that when a Falshood is told of the *Ministry*, it readily spreads ; and even when it is thoroughly refuted, 'tis more than probable that the Refutation does not spread so far, nor is so quickly credited. This is indeed an unhappy Misfortune, nor is it incident to a *Ministry* only, but 'tis the common Fate of most Men ; and I will say this in behalf of the *Ministry* that I never heard a Falshood told of them, and it would have been a Piece of Justice in the *Libel-Writer* to have produced one single Instance of such a Falshood. The Truth has been often told, and I am apt to think that if any Falshood had been spread,

some Pains would have been taken to refute it, whether such a Refutation would have spread so far, or be so quickly credited, or not. I heard a Gentleman say that the Word *Falshood* was certainly an Interpolation, or an Error of the Press; and therefore an *Erratum* should have been placed at the End of the *Libel* thus, for *Falshood*, pag. 13. lin. 4. read *Truth*.

'Tis but reasonable, that Men should be presumed *innocent* till Proofs, or at least Appearances, are brought of their *Guilt*. But when Matters are carried on in the darkest Manner, it is impossible to bring open Proof. What then must be done in such a Case? Why then we must have recourse to Appearances: this is the Logick of the *Libeller*, pag. 14. who surely did not well understand what he writ. But I think Appearances alone are a very weak *Foundation* for the

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Conviction of any Man; corroborating Circumstances added to them will go a great Way, and with very good Reason; nay, in some Cases they are tantamount to a full Proof. Suppose a Person, who has but a very small Fortune, is entrusted by a Gentleman of a large Estate to manage it for him, to receive his Rents, and pay his Debts, and in a very few Years shall build a large and sumptuous House, and be able to advance a Year's Rent to his Master out of the Money which he calls his own; can any Body imagine that he has obtained so much Wealth by fair and honest Methods? No, sure; and yet though no Body will undertake to prove that he has cheated his Master, is not this a Circumstance, not an Appearance only, sufficient to convince any *reasonable* Man, tkat such a Servant has play'd the Knave? I make no Application,

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others may do as they please ; but I will say there have been such unjust Stewards in the World, and what has been may be again, for there is nothing new under the Sun.

It is too often verified, that when a Man stands in our Way, or has provoked us by Disappointment, or by being greater than we are, we are apt to be very scrupulous either of thinking him culpable and bad, or in pronouncing him so. He that drew this Picture has no occasion to write the Name of the Person underneath it ; for the Features are so exact and true, that they who have seen the Original but once, may know him again by the Picture. Methinks I see him now in the same Posture in which he stood in a late Reign, half-blinded with his own Passions, because he could not supplant his best Friend.

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The Account given of the Rain, and the Bishops in the late Queen's Days, p. 16. are equally ridiculous and absurd; but I must say, that the railing Man therein-mentioned might have just Cause to complain of the Treaty then on Foot, as many more had; and tho' the *Libellers* thought it a good one, yet that was no Reason why the other Man should approve it. How wretched is the Condition of that Person who pins his Faith upon another Man's Sleeve.

What he says in relation to Parties, in p. 18. is very true; and a certain Great Man has found his Account in fomenting and keeping up the Spirit of Party-Rage. What he there mentions of Schah Abbas, has no small Affinity to the Circumstances of a certain Person, whose Family we know to be as new as his was; but I hope we shall not suffer the like Fate with the Persians, or that

that the Aversion of Parties to one another is so irreconcilable, as to suffer *Myr Mabud*, to destroy our Country, or invade it, even though *Schah Abbas* the Second should have such a wicked Design in his politick Noddle; surely he who has already amassed such immense Sums of Money, has no occasion to fish in troubled Water.

Having shewn the bad Effects of Parties, he makes a Transition, and assumes the Character of a Dictator; if he be upon a Level with us, I must tell him plainly, he arrogates to himself what does not belong to him; that we have as much Reason, and are as able to dictate to him as he to us; if he be our Superior, we shall pay such Regard to his Dictates as we shall think consistent with Justice and Reason, in which Case we will take upon us to judge for ourselves. He tells us, p. 28. that we are not to imagine, that the

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Word Minister, or that the Situation of a Minister, transforms him immediately into a Monster or Dæmon; methinks that Word *immediately* is very unhappily and unseasonably applied. However, I acquiesce with him in that Point, and do allow that there is a Time for all Things; and though it does not change a Minister *immediately* into a Monster or Dæmon, so it does not change him into an Angel of Light, or make him a Jot the wiser, or more upright than he was the Day before he entered upon his Office. He that takes upon him the Administration of publick Affairs, and *keeps his Integrity*, is a Miracle of a Man; I will not say it is impossible for him to do this, but if we look into History, few Examples of such Men will appear, but many Hundreds of the Reverse. Innumerable Instances might be produced of Persons who

taking upon them the Management of State Affairs, have been suddenly changed into Devils incarnate; and such Men have been found in *ancient History* (for I meddle not with our own Times) who have taken such *lofty Flights*, as in effect to maugre all the Reins of the Commonwealth, though their Masters sat in the *Saddle*. It is almost an Impossibility for those Men to escape a *Ship-wreck of their Consciences*, or refrain from drawing at so tempting a *Lottery* as Power and Grandeur, with their Train of Comitants; or escape those delicious *Charms*, which would almost delude a *Stoic* to mistake such a Fortune for his *Summum Bonum*.

But the *Libel-Writer* puts a Sugar-Plumb in our Mouth, and caresses us with saying, Who knows what a Change a fair Opportunity and proper Application may bring our popular Favourites to? That is in

in plain *English*, let us shake Hands and be Friends; thwart not our Measures, nor expose or censure our Conduct for the future, and you shall be promoted; but we hope, that they who have hitherto been such *zealous Patriots*, will not abandon the Interest of their Countrymen, and suffer themselves to be allured by delusive Promises, or give up the Cause they have espoused upon any Consideration whatever.

Is the *Ministry* obliged to this *Libeller* think you, for telling us in the same Page, that a *Minister* who has common Sense, will for his Honour, Safety and Ease, at least sometimes consult ours? I have always been, and ever shall be of Opinion, that it is the Duty of every *Minister* to consult the Honour, Safety, Ease and Welfare of the People at all Times, even though it might not square with his

own; and he who does not, is an Enemy to the Publick, and consequently a Traytor to his Country.

I believe no one will deny, that it is the Interest of the present *Ministry* to relieve us from the Evils that oppressed us; but if they have been dilatory therein, either through Inadverency, or want of Experience, or from any other Cause whatsoever, sure we who haye been the Sufferers may be allowed the Privilege of expressing our Concern that it was not effected sooner.

What he tells us in the following Paragraph, viz. in p. 22. that *Ministers* cannot make the Times, nor always mend them, is no more than what any old Woman could have told him; it is much of a Piece with Mr. Thomas *B—ts* to the Marquis of *Hallifax*, in the Beginning of which he says, *My Lord, I will tell you what you know much better than I can pretend to.*

No Man of common Reason will surely agree with the Assertion in pag. 23. that the Possessor of Power, the longer he holds it, let him be ever so innocent, the more Foes he will make, and those will make others. This is a bold and scurrilous Arraignment of the People's Integrity, whom by this Rule he stigmatizes with the vilest Infamy : No, *Innocence* will never create any *Foes*; and if an *Enmity* arises, it takes its source not from the right use but from the abuse of Power; as when a *Minister* shall through *Spleen* and *Rancour* use his Power to imprison, and sometimes crush a Man to Death, tho' he cannot be justly charged with any *Guilt*. Such arbitrary and illegal *Proceedings* will excite Men, who are not Sufferers, to become Enemies to a *Minister*, so cruel in his Actions, because they may share the like Fate.

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If *Ministers*, in order to save themselves and their Posts, have sacrificed the *Publick*; and *Factions*, in order to destroy *Ministers*, have done the same, does it from hence follow, that *Ministers* are justified in the Commission of such flagitious Enormities, because others have perpetrated the same monstrous Crimes? If not, then to what Purpose has he inserted this in his *Libel*? It carries a face with it of palliating at least such flagitious Iniquities.

However, I will pursue it no farther, because he has given us a very salutary Exhortation in pag. 23. to do Honour to Truth, and to Merit, where-ever we find it. What an out-of-fashion Doctrine is this! I believe there are few Great Men, who will give him Thanks for his Pains. Worthless Footmen are preferred, and saucy Porters advanced to Employments of good Profit,

Profit, while poor Gentlemen, of steady and unshaken Principles, whom Bribes could not allure, nor the most glittering Temptation entice Men of good Birth and Literature, whose only *Crime* is *Poverty*, walk about half-naked and half-starved, while the others bat-ten in the Sun-shine of *Prosperity*. I challenge all our publick Offices to produce one Man in ten, who is a Person of good Parts and good Birth; and I will undertake to prove that the rest have been *Grooms*, *Lackeys*, or *Valets*, and that some of these are so illiterate, they can scarce write their own Names, and others, who cannot distinguish one Letter in the Alphabet from another. So that to see a Man of Merit preferr'd, except *Phænix-like*, he can rise out of his own Ashes, or has a Teeming Purse at command, may indeed be called a *Rara Avis*; but Miracles in our Days.

To

To conclude : The Design then of the Author is to vindicate the *Ministry*, and therefore to ingratiate them with the People, in order to promote their Esteem ; and it will follow from hence, that the *Ministry* do either want an Advocate, or do not. If they stand in need of one, let the People judge how weak and poor a Defence this *Libel-Writer* has made ; he has betray'd a Weakness in many Places ; he has acknowledged several Things, which I verily believe they would desire should have been concealed. Many Causes have been marred by being committed to the Management of unskilful Practitioners.

Now if the *Ministry* did not want any one to espouse their Interest, then this *Libel-Writer* ought to be chastised for his Officiousness.

POSTCRIP.

P O S T C R I P T.

VArious are the Speculations and Conjectures of the People, concerning the Fleet which is fitting out with all the Expedition imaginable for the *Mediterranean*, under the Command of an Admiral, Vice-Admiral, and Rear-Admiral. It cannot be supposed that such a great Preparation is designed for introducing *Don Carlos* into *Italy*, because *Spain* can furnish a Fleet sufficient to answer that End, especially if it be considered that the *Emperor* has consented to his *peaceable Introduction*; so that no Opposition can be expected from that Quarter. Nor can it be intended to exercise our Sailors, after the *Russian Manner*, or that any Descent is designed, for then some of our Marines and

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Land-Forces would have been order'd to go on Board. What then may we suppose the Ministry to have upon the Carpet? It is most probable that this Great *Armado* is designed either against *Spain* or *France*; and if so, what will result from thence?

If we break with *Spain*, or She with *Great-Britain*, then what becomes of the *Treaty of Seville*? of the *Peace* which was there concluded, and which cost us so much Treasure? If this be the Case, then our Merchants must sit down by their Losses, and expect no Recompence for the Capture of their Ships, or Satisfaction for the Damages they have received. Trade will stagnate, there will be no Encouragement given to our Woollen-Manufactures, the Staple Commodity of the Kingdom; and thousands of poor Families, whose Bread depends upon their Handy-work,

work, must be thrown upon the Parish, or starve. Such a Thought must move the most Adamantine Heart.

We cannot suppose that the King of Spain's not settling the *Indulto*, and refusing to deliver to the Proprietors their Effects in the *Flotilla*, (except they advance to him, by Way of Loan, some Millions) could prompt our wise Ministry to send a Fleet thither to compel him; for the Subjects of Great-Britain can lay *Claim* to no more than their own *Share*, and the Expences of fitting out twenty Sail of such Line-of-Battle Ships, (even excluding the Pay of the Officers and Sailors) will amount to more than the Share of our own Subjects Effects in the *Flotilla* does come to. Besides, as the Subjects of other Potentates are concerned therein as well as ours, it cannot be imagined that we should be so Complaisant, as to take the

whole Burden upon our own selves.

The *Spaniards* have erected some strong Forts in their own Dominions, by which they can damage if not totally destroy such Ships as design to pass into the *Mediterranean*, but those especially which enter into the Bay of *Gibraltar*, which was formerly reckoned the Key of the *Mediterranean*, because they could prevent the Passage of any Ships thither. But now those Forts can command all the Ships in the Bay of *Gibraltar*; so that the Garrison is but of little Signification, if the *Spaniards* shall have it in their Power to sink such Vessels as endeavour to enter there either with Recruits, Provisions, or to Traffick. If then there be any design against *Spain*, in all probability it is to oblige them to demolish those Forts, or upon Non-compliance, to beat them down. If this be the Point, will not *Spain* be

be apt to say, that she has a Liberty to erect Forts in any Part of her own Territories? I must confess I know not what Answer to make to this Question; but if such a Question should be asked, it is the Business of the *Ministry* to make a Response, and they alone are answerable for it.

Well then, *Spain* rests secure, let us consider the Motions that can induce us to send a Fleet to the *French Coasts*, if they are obliged to steer their Course thither. We hope our new Friend and good Alley has not plaid us a slippery Trick so soon; even when old *Bona Fide* was alive, he never made a Breach of his *Parole* in so short a Time, and we hope the *Ministers* of the present King do not persuade their Royal Master to a Rupture with us yet a while at least. I am apt to think, that they are not a little *chagrin'd* at our having concluded

ay Peaked at Vienna, without their Participation; but as volatile as they are, surely they will not involve their Country in a War upon so trivial an Account, though I must needs own, that a less Trifle has been the Occasion of commencing a War, and depopulating whole Kingdoms.

If we may give Credit to our Accounts brought from Abroad, the French are fitting out a Fleet, which perhaps may be at Sea by this time, and if it has entered into their Heads to take the Pretender on Board, in order to make an Invasion, then indeed it is high Time to send a Fleet to bring them to Reason, and repel Force by Force.

But be it as it will, the People will be the Sufferers, if we have a War, not only in the Stagnation of their own Trade, as I mentioned before, but also in re-imburſing the Expences of this vast Ariment.

Alas !

Alas ! we have long fluctuated in Uncertainty, and shall we no sooner perceive a glimmering Light, than it shall be taken from us ? We have not as yet tasted the sweet Fruits of Peace, and must our Teeth be set on Edge with four Grapes ? If we must have a War, let us have it quickly, that we may know what we have to confide in ; for surely to be tossed to and fro, to be wreck'd with Doubts, and live in Suspence, is worse than Death itself.

We had better began it much sooner, and then we might have saved those vast Sums of Money it cost us to obtain a *Peace*, which we hoped would have terminated in the Tranquility of *Europe*. This Fleet gives strong Apprehensions, and the more, because it is not intended to make a fine Show at *Spithead*, as the last did. Surely, we are not so very wealthy as to make *Ducks and Drakes* of our Money ; but we must wait

wait with Patience to see the Event. 'Tis to be hoped that our prudent *Ministers*, who never committed any Blunders, but always consulted the Good of the Nation, have it still so near their Hearts, as not to put us to any farther Expences than what are absolutely necessary, and conducive to the Honour and Prosperity of the Kingdom.

F I N I S. We



